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REMARKS

Claims 14-16, 18-21, 24, 25, 27 and 28 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Applicants have amended claims 14 and 27 to define the claimed invention more particularly.

Applicants believe that entry of this amendment is proper since no new issues are being presented to the Examiner, which would require further consideration and/or search.

Applicants specifically state that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claims.

Claims 14-16, 21, 23-25, 27 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Warlick et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0127342; hereinafter "Warlick").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The claimed invention of exemplary claim 1 provides a woven/non-woven fabric including fibers consisting of pure cotton, wherein the fibers have not greater than 4.5 micrograms per inch of fiber length (see Application at page 9, lines 1-4). This combination of features provides a fabric that is reusable, tear-resistant when dry or soaked, very high in absorption capacity, ecological and biodegradable (see Application at page 2, lines 10-12).

II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

The Examiner alleges that Warlick teaches the claimed invention of claims 14-16, 21, 23-25, 27 and 28. Applicants submit, however, that there are features of the claimed invention, which are neither taught nor suggested by Warlick.

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That is, Warlick does not teach or suggest, "*wherein said fibers have not greater than 4.5 micrograms per inch of fiber length*", as recited in exemplary claim 14, and similarly recited in claim 27.

The Examiner does not even allege that Warlick teaches or suggests this feature of the claimed invention. Instead, the Examiner alleges that "as the invention of Warlick et al. is made with non-allergenic natural pure cotton fibers, which is the same as claimed by Applicant the fibers of Warlick et al. necessarily anticipates the limitation of claim 23." (See Office Action dated June 28, 2007 at page 2).

Applicants, however, respectfully submit that the fibers of the claimed invention are a by-product of a cotton fiber spinning process (e.g., see Application at page 6, lines 14-20). The fibers of Warlick are not produced in the same manner and, therefore, do not necessarily exhibit the same properties as the fibers of the claimed invention.

Therefore, Applicants submit that there are features of the claimed invention that are neither taught nor suggested by the claimed invention. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

III. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 14-16, 21, 24, 25, 27 and 28, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: September 28, 2007



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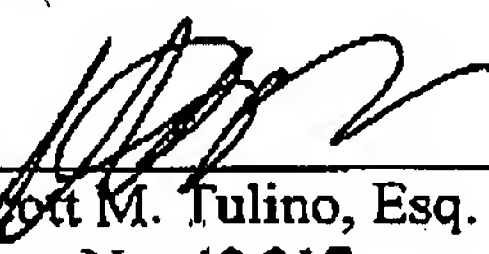
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I hereby certify that I am filing this paper via facsimile, to Group Art Unit 1771,
at (571) 273-8300, on September 28, 2007.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date: September 28, 2007



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